

And hospital emergency rooms such as the one at Valley Presbyterian in Van Nuys may see a 5% to 10% increase in traffic during the summer.

"Arguments, bodily injuries, assaults, accidents . . . people become much more irritable and prone to getting into fights in the summertime," said Dr. Dennis Kelly, 42, chief of emergency services at Valley Presbyterian, whose staff has seen an increase in drug abuse-related injuries and domestic violence, including child abuse, in the last few years.